

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 01303 280949Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 ACDA-07 DODE-00 IO-13

PRS-01 USIA-06 AID-05 CU-02 AS-01 /100 W

-----108494 280951Z /17

R 280845Z JUN 77

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8086

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABERONE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1303

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS CH RH

SUBJ: MUGABE VISIT TO PEKING

REF: PEKING 1252

1. WE UNDERSTAND FROM ZAMBIA EMBASSY THAT LUSAKA
NEWSPAPERS RECENTLY CARRIED DENIAL THAT MUGABE HAD
EVER MADE ANTI-SOVIET STATEMENT IN PEKING (REFTEL).
WE FIND IT VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO BELIEVE, HOWEVER,
THAT PRC WOULD INVENT WORDS AND PUT THEM IN MOUTN OF
VISITING LEADER. MUCH MORE LIKELY EXPLANATION
IS THAT MUGABE HAS REGRETTEED HIS OVER EXUBERANCE AND
IS NOW TRYING TO PLAY DOWN THE ANTI-SOVIET NATURE OF
HIS REMARKS.

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2. WE ALSO CALL ATTENTION OF ADDRESSES TO INTER-
VIEW MUGABE GAVE LONDON DAILY TELEGRAPH CORRES-
PONDENT NIGEL WADE ON JUNE 23, AND WHICH PRESUMABLY
APPEARED IN HIS PAPER SAME OR FOLLOWING DAY.
IN INTERVIEW, MUGABE TONED DOWN CONSIDERABLY HIS
ANTI-SOVIET THEME, BUT MADE CLEAR-DUT DISTINCTION

BETWEEN HIS OWN ZANU'S LINKS WITH PRC AND THE LINKS
OF JOSHUA NKOMO'S ZAPU WITH THE SOVIET
UNION. ACCORDING TO THE WAD EARTICLE, MUGABE
"IMPLIED THAT ZANU HAD BEEN UNABLE TO "MAKE FRIENDS"
WITH MOSCOW BUT HE WOULD CONSIDER GOING THERE IF
INVITED". HE REPORTEDLY WARNED THAT ANY SOVIET
SUPPORT MUST COME WITH NO STRINGS ATTACHED, STATING
"WE WILL NOT HAVE OUR FRIENDS AS OUR MASTERS".

3. WAD EARTICLE ALSO STATES MUGABE CONFIRMED THAT
ZIMBABWE PATRIOTIC FRONT WAS RECEIVING "CHINESE
ACTIVE SUPPORT". CHINESE AID WAS BEING SENT THROUGH
THE LIBERATION COMMITTEE OF THE OAU, BUT "MUGABE
REFUSED TO BE DRAWN ON HOW MUCH OR WHAT TYPE OF AID
IT WAS".
DEAN

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 28-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
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TAGS: MASS, PDEV, CH, RH, UR, (MUGABE, ROBERT)
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